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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/056,424	01/24/2002	Kenji Mizutani	MTS-3301US	8062

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EXAMINER

ALBERTALLI, BRIAN LOUIS

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2655

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/056,424

Applicant(s)

MIZUTANI ET AL.

Examiner

Brian L Albertalli

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/17/02.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 4 of the claim, the term "also" is unnecessary and makes the language of the claim confusing.

The term "also" should be deleted.

Appropriate correction is required.

Specification

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the abstract describes the handheld translation device as a whole, while the claims are only directed to the graphic display and selection component of the translation device. The abstract should be rewritten to reflect the material encompassed in the claims. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

3. Similarly, the title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horiguchi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,282,507), in view of Miyao et al. (U.S. Patent 4,774,666)

In regard to claims 1 and 6, Horiguchi et al. disclose a speech converting device and a corresponding method comprising:

speech inputting means (step) of inputting speech of a first language (Fig. 12, speech input 1201, column 16, lines 7-8);

speech recognizing means (step) of recognizing said input speech (speech recognition component 1202, column 16, lines 8-9);

first extracting/displaying means (step) of extracting and displaying one or plural word strings of said first language, said word strings corresponding to a result of said speech recognition (a list of utterance hypotheses 1208 are produced and displayed for a user through a user interface 1298, column 16, lines 13-19; the hypotheses displayed as a plurality of hypothesis sets, Fig. 16, 1602, 1604, and 1606, column 17, lines 54-57);

conversion object selecting means of (step), from said displayed word strings, selecting a word string which is expected to become an object of conversion to a second language (1210, user selects the best utterance hypothesis, column 16, lines 16-18); and

converting means (step) of determining said object of conversion to said second language on the basis of said selected word string, and of converting said determined conversion object to a speech language of said second language (best utterance

hypothesis 1212 is translated by translation component 1214 and output by speech synthesis component 1216, column 16, lines 21-25).

Horiguchi et al. further disclose a second extracting/displaying means (step) of specifying part of a word string and displaying candidates of a term that is an additional recognition candidate (Fig. 17, column 18, lines 10-15). Horiguchi et al. further acknowledge that translations from one language to another may convey a meaning that was not intended (back translations ensure the target language hypothesis conveys the intended meaning, column 17, lines 57-63). Additionally, Horiguchi et al. disclose that the first extracting/displaying means (selecting from plurality of word strings, as in Fig. 16) and the second extracting/displaying means (selecting a part of a word string and displaying candidate terms, as in Fig. 17) can be combined (column 18, lines 20-22).

Horiguchi et al. do not disclose that the candidate terms (Fig. 17, 1710) correspond to contents of the specified part of the selected word string (hypotheses 1710 are possible recognition candidates, not a list of alternative word choices or synonyms).

Miyao et al. disclose a system for language translation that includes an extracting/displaying means (step) of, when a whole or a part of said selected word string is specified, extracting and displaying candidates of a term which corresponds to contents of said specified whole or part of said selected word string (Fig. 12, when a desired word of a word string is selected by a cursor, a window of related words 136 is displayed for the user to select, column 7, lines 41-47);

candidate selecting means (step) of selecting one of said displayed candidates (the operator selects the most suitable term, column 7, lines 46-47).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Horiguchi et al. to use the first extracting/displaying means (selecting from plurality of word strings, as in Fig. 16) to select the correct recognition candidate, and use the second extracting/displaying means (selecting a part of a word string and displaying candidate terms, as in Fig. 17) to select from a list of related words corresponding to the contents of a specified part of the string, as taught by Miyao et al., in order to enable "a delicate expression with subtle distinction in nuance", as taught by Miyao et al. (column 5, lines 61-66).

In regard to claim 2, Horiguchi et al. disclose said first extracting/displaying means has a displaying section comprising a display screen (column 16, lines 44-46) which displays said plural word strings that are objects of said selection, and said selected word in respective predetermined regions (See Fig. 16, selected hypothesis 1606 is displayed in the lower display area as selected hypothesis set 1610, column 17, lines 63-66), and

said second extracting/displaying means overlappingly displays said candidates of a term in a partial region of said display screen in a window form (See Fig. 17, the list of alternatives 1710 is clearly a window overlapping areas of the display border.

In regard to claim 3, Horiguchi et al. disclose when said selected word string is displayed on said display screen, information indicating that candidates of the corresponding term can be displayed, with respect to a part of said word string.

In Fig. 17, Horiguchi et al. disclose that the term that has possible alternatives is highlighted (highlighted term 1704, column 18, lines 8-10).

In the combination of Horiguchi et al. and Miyao et al., as applied to claim 1, above, the combination of the first display means (Fig. 16) and the second display means (Fig. 17), as anticipated by Horiguchi et al. (column 18, lines 20-22), would necessarily highlight the part of the word strings with candidates of the corresponding term (highlighted term 1704) in the list of possible recognition candidates in the first display means (1602, 1604, and 1608 of Fig. 16).

In regard to claim 4, Horiguchi et al. disclose said speech converting device further comprises screen display specifying means (cursor 1712) of specifying said part of said word string on said display screen, said additional information being displayed with respect to said part of said word string (as described in reference to Fig. 13, in order to activate the highlighted segment (1304 in Fig. 13 and 1704 in Fig. 17), to display alternative hypotheses (1310 in Fig. 13 and 1710 in Fig. 17), the user must move a cursor to the highlighted selection and click a mouse button, column 16, lines 59-61).

In regard to claim 5, Horiguchi et al. disclose said converting means determines a result in which said specified part of said word string is replaced with a term of said selected candidate, as said conversion object (in response to a selection of an alternative 1710, hypothesis set 1714 is used as the best hypothesis, column 18, lines 13-19; to generate a translated speech output, column 16, lines 21-25).

In regard to claims 7-10, Horiguchi et al. disclose a program (Fig. 2, algorithms 220-260) and a medium (memory 200) for causing a computer to function as a whole or part of the means/steps in claims 1-6 (column 8, lines 9-12).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Etsuo (U.S. Patent 6,330,529) discloses a method for embedding translated text in a document that is shown in a popup window. Bookman et al. (U.S. Patent 5,822,720) disclose a system that allows a user to select a Japanese phrase from a text and receive translation of that selected text. Sakai et al. (U.S. Patent 5,222,160) disclose a method for correction recognition that displays word candidates in a popup window.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian L Albertalli whose telephone number is (703) 305-

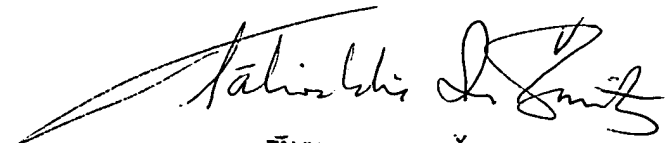
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1817. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri, 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM, every second Fri off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Talivaldis Smits can be reached on (703) 305-3011. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BLA 1/19/05



TĀLIVALDIS NARS ŠMITS
PRIMARY EXAMINER